

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A certification system comprising:

a plurality of storage devices each storing therein identification information; and

a certification apparatus including certification means for certifying whether each of said storage devices is an authorized device authorized to operate components mounted on a vehicle, and in which

said storage devices include (1) an authorized storage device certified as being said authorized device, and (2) a master storage device, which certifies said authorized storage device as being said authorized device,

said certification apparatus includes obtaining means for obtaining said identification information stored in each of said storage devices,

storage means for storing therein information, and

storage control means for controlling said storage means,

said certification means is operative to certify whether each of said storage devices is said authorized device on the basis of said identification information of each of said storage devices obtained by said obtaining means and said information stored in said storage means,

said certification means is operative to certify that said master storage device ~~is not~~ is disabled from being said authorized device if said storage means has stored therein said identification information of said authorized storage device, and

said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means store therein said identification information of said authorized storage device obtained by said obtaining means if said certification means certifies said master storage device as being said authorized device.

2. (Currently Amended) A certification system comprising:

a plurality of storage devices each storing therein identification information; and

a certification apparatus including certification means for certifying whether each of said storage devices is an authorized device authorized to operate components mounted on a vehicle, and in which

said storage devices include (1) first and second authorized storage devices each certified as being said authorized device, and (2) a master storage device which certifies said first authorized storage device as being said authorized device,

said certification apparatus includes obtaining means for obtaining said identification information stored in each of said storage devices,

storage means for storing therein information, and

storage control means for controlling said storage means,

said certification means is operative to certify whether each of said storage devices is said authorized device on the basis of said identification information of each of said storage devices obtained by said obtaining means and said information stored in said storage means,

said certification means is operative to certify that said master storage device ~~is not~~ is disabled from being said authorized device if said storage means has stored therein said identification information of said first authorized storage device obtained by said obtaining means,

said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means store therein said identification information of said first authorized storage device obtained by said obtaining means if said certification means certifies said master storage device as being said authorized device, and

said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means store therein said identification information of said second authorized storage device obtained by said obtaining means only under the condition that said certification means certifies said first authorized storage device as being said authorized device.

3. (Previously Presented) A certification system as set forth in claim 2, in which

components mounted on said vehicle which said first authorized storage device are to be authorized to use include one or more components mounted on said vehicle other than components mounted on said vehicle which said second authorized storage device are to be authorized to use.

4. (Previously Presented) A certification system as set forth in claim 2, in which

said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means delete said identification information of said second authorized storage device therefrom only under the condition that said certification means certifies said first authorized storage device as being said authorized device.

5. (Previously Presented) A certification system as set forth in claim 2, in which

said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means delete said identification information of said first authorized storage device therefrom only under the condition that said storage means has not stored therein said identification information of said second authorized storage device and said certification means certifies said first authorized storage device as being said authorized device.

6. (Previously Presented) A certification system as set forth in claim 2, in which

said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means delete said identification information of said first authorized storage device therefrom only under the condition that said storage means has not stored therein said identification information of said second authorized storage device and said certification means certifies said first authorized storage device as being said authorized device, and said master storage device becomes said authorized device when said storage control means controls said storage means to have said storage means delete said identification information of said first authorized storage device therefrom.

7. (Previously Presented) A certification system as set forth in claim 1, in which

said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means delete said identification information of said authorized storage device only

under the condition that said certification means certifies said authorized storage device as being said authorized device.

8. (Previously Presented) A certification system as set forth in claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising transmitting means for transmitting said identification information to be stored in said storage means when said identification information is stored in said storage means.

9. (Previously Presented) A certification system as set forth in any one of claim 4 through claim 7, further comprising transmitting means for transmitting said identification information to be deleted from said storage means when said identification information is deleted from the storage means.

10. - 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A certification apparatus comprising:

certification means for certifying whether each of a plurality of storage devices each storing therein identification information is an authorized device authorized to operate components mounted on a vehicle;

obtaining means for obtaining said identification information stored in each of said storage devices;

storage means for storing therein information; and

storage control means for controlling said storage means, and in which

said storage devices include (1) an authorized storage device certified as being said authorized device, and (2) a master storage device which certifies said authorized storage device as being said authorized device,

said certification apparatus includes obtaining means for obtaining said identification information stored in each of said storage devices,

said certification means is operative to certify whether each of said storage devices is said authorized device on the basis of said identification information of each of said storage devices obtained by said obtaining means and said information stored in said storage means,

said certification means is operative to certify that said master storage device ~~is not is disabled from being~~ said authorized device if said storage means has stored therein said identification information of said authorized storage device, and

said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means store therein said identification information of said authorized storage device obtained by said obtaining means if said certification means certifies said master storage device as being said authorized device.

15. (Currently Amended) A certification apparatus comprising:

certification means for certifying whether each of a plurality of storage devices each storing therein identification information is an authorized device authorized to operate components mounted on a vehicle;

obtaining means for obtaining said identification information stored in each of said storage devices;

storage means for storing therein information; and

storage control means for controlling said storage means, and in which

said storage devices include (1) first and second authorized storage devices each certified as being said authorized device, and (2) a master storage device which certifies said first authorized storage device as being said authorized device,

said certification means is operative to certify whether each of said storage devices is said authorized device on the basis of said identification information of each of said storage devices obtained by said obtaining means and said information stored in said storage means,

said certification means is operative to certify that said master storage device ~~is not is disabled from being~~ said authorized device if said storage means has stored therein said

identification information of said first authorized storage device obtained by said obtaining means,

said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means store therein said identification information of said first authorized storage device obtained by said obtaining means if said certification means certifies said master storage device as being said authorized device, and

said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means store therein said identification information of said second authorized storage device obtained by said obtaining means if said certification means certifies said first authorized storage device as being said authorized device.

16. (Currently Amended) A certification system comprising:

a master card;

an integration circuit card; and

a certification apparatus for registering identification information of the integration circuit card to certify authorization for using vehicle-mounted components to the integration circuit card upon certifying the master card, the certification apparatus including:

an internal storage unit;

a certification unit certifying the master card as an authorized device if:

identification information of the master card is stored on the internal storage unit; and

the internal storage unit does not store identification information of the integration circuit card authorized for using the vehicle components, and

the certification unit disables the master card from being the authorized device if the internal storage unit has stored identification information of the integration circuit card authorized for using the vehicle components.

17. (Previously Presented) A certification system of claim 16, wherein the master card and the IC card is carried by vehicle dealers and the IC card is carried by vehicle users.

18. (Previously Presented) A certification system of claim 17, wherein the IC card is constituted by a drivers license.

19. (Currently Amended) A certification apparatus for registering identification information of an integration circuit card to certify authorization for using vehicle-mounted components to the integration circuit card upon certifying a master card comprising:

an internal storage unit; and

a certification unit certifying the master card as an authorized device if:

identification information of the master card is stored on the internal storage unit; and

the internal storage unit does not store identification information of the integration circuit card authorized for using the vehicle components, and

the certification unit disables the master card from being the authorized device if the internal storage unit has stored identification information of the integration circuit card authorized for using the vehicle components.